

PUBLIC REPRIMAND. In the Matter of William M. Chasanov, No. 390, 2005. Effective: October 18, 2005.

William M. Chasanov, Esquire, a partner with the firm of Brown Shiels Beauregard & Chasanov, received a public reprimand with practice limitations and conditions. The Court approved a Report and Approval of Stipulation and Joint Recommendation of Sanction that was submitted by a panel of the Board on Professional Responsibility ("Board"). The Board's report concluded, in accordance with the stipulation entered into by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("ODC") and Mr. Chasanov, that Mr. Chasanov had violated the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct ("Rules"). Mr. Chasanov agreed he violated **Rule 5.1(c)(2)** by failing to ensure the firm had instituted corrective measures with respect to a conflict check system and by not accurately representing the status of that conflict check system as required by the terms of a previous disciplinary matter.

In recommending the public reprimand, the Board considered the following mitigating factors: (1) Chasanov had made efforts to rectify the consequences of his misconduct by consulting with Richard Herrmann, Esquire with regard to the implementation of computerized conflicts screening. In aggravation, the Board considered that (1) Chasanov has a prior disciplinary record, consisting of two private admonitions: (a) 8/9/94 for violation of Rule 1.5(c) for failing to provide clients with a written contingent fee agreement; (b) 3/24/99 for violation of Rule 1.15(b) by failing to promptly deliver to the opposing party in a domestic relations case funds being held which were payable as alimony; and he was suspended from the practice of law for a six-month period effective 2/22/05 for violation of Rules 3.3, for lack of candor to a tribunal, and 1.15(b), for failure to deliver funds to a client upon request; and (2) Chasanov has substantial experience in the practice of law.

Under the practice limitations, Chasanov will dissolve the Firm and the partnership currently known as Brown Shiels Beauregard & Chasanov as soon as practicable but no later than December 31, 2005. If Chasanov is a named partner and/or a principal in a firm that has more than one office: (1) he must ensure that the conflict system in the firm is centralized in the main office and each office must be networked by computer with the main office in order to perform conflict checks; and (2) he must ensure that the books and records and bank accounts encompassed by Rule 1.15 and Rule 1.15A are maintained in the main office. Under the conditions, during various time periods Chasanov must file an affidavit by a certified public accountant certifying that the firm's books and records are in full compliance with Rule 1.15.